

Saudi Arabia, has already received. This is not a political issue; this is a national security issue. We've already seen the extraordinarily high cost of spreading so-called "peaceful" nuclear technologies around the world: we've been paying that price for decades. The United States simply cannot afford to make this kind of mistake again.

President Bush seems to believe that the United States is in a race, with the French and the Russians, to win contracts to build nuclear power facilities around the world. But he's wrong; that's not the race we're in. We're in a race to contain the atom, not to let it loose. We're in a race to prevent the spread of dangerous nuclear technologies any further, before these technologies can be used against us or our allies. Providing nuclear power technology to Saudi Arabia, a country for whom such technology makes no economic sense for electricity generation, is short-sighted and dangerous. The Markey-Ros-Lehtinen bill will block any such unnecessary and dangerous transfers, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE KANSAS PARTICIPANTS IN HONOR FLIGHT

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40 veterans from the Kansas City area who participated in the Greater Kansas City Honor Flight to Washington, DC, on June 11, 2008.

Honor Flight is a non-profit organization that was created to honor America's veterans by organizing free trips to Washington, DC, to visit and reflect at the memorials dedicated to their service. Priority is currently given to veterans who served during World War II or those veterans who are facing terminal illness. Sadly, each day we lose more than 1,200 World War II veterans. It is imperative that these individuals have the opportunity to visit the memorial that was designed to honor their service and I am pleased that Honor Flight has made this a reality for so many of our WWII veterans. I had the opportunity to visit with many of them as they toured the World War II memorial last week and was struck by how many repeatedly expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC, when, in reality, we should be the one thanking them.

Madam Speaker, today I rise to humbly express my deep appreciation and gratitude to the veterans who participated in the Greater Kansas City Honor Flight, as well as their fellow service men and women from other parts of the United States, for their service to our country. No other group of Americans has stood stronger or more bravely for our democracy than our troops and veterans. We must celebrate, honor and remember these courageous and faithful men and women.

I would like to thank the organizers of the Greater Kansas City Honor Flight, Gary Swanson and David Jackson, as well as the many dedicated chaperones and volunteers who worked behind the scenes on June 11 and for many months beforehand to ensure the Honor Flight participants had a memorable experience.

Additionally, I would like to recognize the generous financial contribution my constituents, Norman and Elaine Polsky, made to Honor Flight in order to make the trip to Washington, DC, possible for these worthy service men and women from the Kansas City area. I thank Mr. Polsky for his incredible generosity and appreciate his tireless work in the community on behalf of his fellow veterans.

The T-shirts worn by chaperones assisting Honor Flight participants feature a stirring quote from notable American entertainer Will Rogers, which states, "We can't all be heroes. Some of us have to stand at the curb and clap as they go by." Thank you to all of our veterans, especially those men and women who served proudly and courageously during World War II, and serve as an inspiration to our current armed forces. I am standing and clapping as loudly as I can.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I was unable to have my vote recorded on the House floor on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, having remained in my district to assist my constituents with the severe flooding that recently struck Wisconsin. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 2964 (Roll no. 414), H.R. 3702 (Roll no. 415), and H. Res. 1275 (Roll no. 416).

HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to commemorate June 2008 as National Homeownership Month and would like to thank my colleague, Congressman GARY MILLER, for introducing H. Res. 127, recognizing National Homeownership Month and the importance of homeownership in the United States.

In 2002, President George W. Bush designated June as National Homeownership Month to strengthen our Nation's commitment to equal housing opportunities for all, setting a goal to increase minority homeownership in America by 5.5 million by 2010. Purchasing a home is the largest investment made by most households, providing economic security and an opportunity for homeowners to build wealth.

It has become clear, however, with at least 1.4 million foreclosures predicted next year and as many as 2.8 million Americans projected to lose their homes in the next 5 years due to the subprime mortgage crisis, that we must rededicate ourselves at all levels of private, public, and nonprofit sectors to keep homeowners in their homes and ensure equal housing opportunities for all people. We must work together as a Nation to protect American homeowners and ensure that every American has the opportunity to live and hold onto the American Dream.

HONORING COLONEL BRIAN W. LAURITZEN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Brian W. Lauritzen, the Installation Commander at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. As a Member of Congress who represents Fort Belvoir, I know firsthand that Colonel Lauritzen has served with great competence, tireless determination and constant communication with the community during a time of great transition for his installation.

Colonel Lauritzen took command of Fort Belvoir, one of our Nation's largest and most diverse military installations, in July 2005 with major challenges awaiting him and even more on the horizon. Fort Belvoir was already engaged in master planning for redevelopment to expand the number of Department of Defense tenants and stretch the functions of the already busy installation. Then, just a few months into his tenure, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission's final recommendations doubled the size of Fort Belvoir's incoming workforce by 2011.

The BRAC changes at Fort Belvoir, among the most substantial of BRAC 2005's mandates, will transform the installation into the major support center for the Nation's most senior military leadership. Ensuring a successful transition has brought with it the great challenges of working with both the Department of Defense and the local community. These challenges include timely and transparent planning, assessing the environmental and societal impacts of absorbing more than 19,000 new employees, managing the transportation infrastructure in an area already burdened by traffic, and ensuring that all of Fort Belvoir's defense tenants can still perform their vital national security missions.

Colonel Lauritzen has ably met these daunting challenges with the superb attitude that, in order to be successful, Fort Belvoir must continue to be receptive and responsive to the concerns of all of the surrounding communities. His early promise to the community that there would be "no daylight between us" has held true. Colonel Lauritzen established the BRAC Board of Advisors, a first-in-the-Nation group bringing together members of the Army, incoming agencies, and the region's elected officials and local civic activists to identify development issues and keep open the lines of communication.

I have always found Colonel Lauritzen to be the consummate consensus builder. He personally has made more than 150 appearances and presentations before community groups to keep them apprised of the BRAC expansion, Fort Belvoir's other missions, and their impact on the community. Similarly, he built strong communication coalitions with and between the major commands headquartered at Fort Belvoir in support of their people and their global missions through the Installation Senior Leadership Council.

More than just communication, Colonel Lauritzen continues to facilitate progress, even when progress is difficult. He worked directly with Fairfax and Prince William Counties, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the